



Department of Defense/ Department of Veterans Affairs



(VA) Health Executive Council Work Groups Updates and Achievements

June 2009



VA/DoD Health Executive Council (HEC) Charter



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- Oversee development & implementation of VA/DoD Joint Strategic Plan for health issues
 - Oversee working groups and steering groups
 - Identify opportunities (policy, operations, and capital planning) to enhance mutually beneficial coordination
 - Submit Annual Report to JEC on progress to-date on JSP for health issues



DoD HEC Membership



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- Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) — Co-Chair
 - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
 - Surgeon General of the Army
 - Surgeon General of the Navy
 - Surgeon General of the Air Force
 - Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Budgets and Financial Policy)
 - Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Health Protection and Readiness)
 - Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Clinical and Program Policy)
 - Deputy Director, TRICARE Management Activity
 - Chief Information Officer, Military Health System



VA HEC Membership



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- Under Secretary for Health – Co-Chair
 - Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health
 - Deputy Under Secretary for Health Operations and Management
 - Chief of Staff
 - Chief, Legislative, Regulatory & Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - Deputy Chief Officer, Health Systems
 - Chief Health Information Officer
 - Chief Patient Care Services Officer
 - Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Officer



VA/DoD Health Executive Council (HEC) Structure



VA/DoD Health Executive Council *Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) &*

Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Affairs

**Acquisition & Medical Materiel
Management WG**

Contingency Response WG

**Continuing Education &
Training WG**

Credentialing Policy Ad Hoc WG

Deployment Health WG

**Evidence-Based Clinical
Practice Guidelines WG**

Financial Management WG

**Health Professions Education
WG[†]**

**Information Management
Information Technology WG**

**Interagency Clinical
Informatics Board**

**Joint Facility Utilization &
Resource Sharing WG**

Mental Health WG

Patient Safety WG

Pharmacy WG



Joint Facility Utilization and Resource Sharing WG



Work Group Goals

- Explore and identify opportunities for increased sharing in the areas of joint facility utilization and resource sharing
- Joint Market Opportunities (JMO) project assesses health care markets serving large, multi-service, DoD and VA populations



Joint Facility Utilization and Resource Sharing WG



Work Group Achievements

- Multiple phased initiative
- Phase 1 focused on the eight joint venture sites
 - Use of Joint Incentive Fund process
 - Shared training, orientation and contingency planning exercises
 - Joint committee structure
- Phase 1B focused on four sites identified by the JEC
 - Sites developed joint Concept of Operations
 - Special JIF funding to accomplish sharing opportunities identified in ConOps
- Phase 2 focused on eleven market areas still in progress
 - Sharing opportunities exist at each site



Continuing Education & Training WG



Work Group Goals

- Facilitate the open and ongoing dialogue between the Departments on continuing education and training infrastructure and operations issues
- Identify opportunities for joint educational contracts and co-development of training programs of mutual interest and benefit
- Facilitate sharing of education and training opportunities particularly those that take advantage of distributed learning architectures



Continuing Education & Training WG



Work Group Achievements

- Since its inception in FY 2005, the workgroup has facilitated and managed the sharing of 1,244 training programs between the two Departments and has generated a direct cost avoidance of \$41 million
- The workgroup has also successfully implemented \$11 million in Joint Incentive Fund (JIF) grants
 - The development of a suite of pharmacy technician training programs to be completed in FY09
- North Chicago integrated health care facility in-service and orientation training program



Credentialing Ad Hoc WG



Work Group Goals

- A less complex credentialing and validation system
- Reduce the time and cost associated with dual credentialing when staff and providers are assigned to both VA and DoD facilities
- Seamless transition to credentialing & validation of provider



Credentialing Ad Hoc WG



Work Group Achievements

- Completed review of all pertinent information regarding credentialing:
 - DoDI's, Service Regulations/Instructions
 - VA Handbook
 - JCAHO standards
 - Joint Venture work arounds
- VA/DoD agreement on Joint Commission principles for MOU
- Development of draft VA/DoD MOU that will be used to make changes to Service policies, DoD Instruction, and VA Handbook



Deployment Health WG



Work Group Goals

- Identify and foster opportunities for sharing information and resources between VA and DoD in the areas of deployment health surveillance, assessment, follow-up care, health risk communication, and research and development



Deployment Health WG



Work Group Achievements

- A VA National Veterans' Registry was a new initiative in fiscal year 2008 to develop a national listing of all veterans
- DoD and VA continue to provide medical testing for potential Depleted Uranium exposure
- There were two new programs established in FY08 regarding retained fragments
 - DoD Embedded Metal Fragment Registry
 - VA Toxic Embedded Fragment Center
- In 2008, DoD implemented screening for Traumatic Brain Injury at the time of Post-Deployment Health Assessment and Post- Deployment Health Reassessment



Evidence-Based Guidelines WG



Work Group Goals

- Identify clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) requiring clarification/ modification to remove barriers and enhance sharing
- Develop recommendations for streamlining CPGs for specified clinical areas
- Develop tools to facilitate implementation of CPGs
- Monitor and evaluate published CPGs to identify strengths and resolve problems



Evidence-Based Guidelines WG



Work Group Achievements

- Work in progress on the following CPGs- Diabetes, Asthma, Stroke Rehabilitation, Chronic Opioid Therapy, PTSD, and Bi Polar Disorders
- Completed CPGs this FY include mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Major Depressive Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, Pregnancy Management
- Approved CPGs are introduced on the website within six months of their completion date
 - VA new website: www.healthyquality.va.gov



Financial Management WG



Work Group Goals

- Inter-departmental communication on resource management issues
- Review reimbursement policies & identify policies requiring modification/clarification
- Develop recommendations for improving financial processes and practices (create incentives)
- Joint Incentive Fund implementation



Financial Management WG



Work Group Achievements

- Local Great Lakes/North Chicago financial task group is developing the financial structure and data crosswalks to accomplish financial reporting goals.
 - Work on the reconciliation process continues and draft legislation is pending
- Continue to solicit and recommend JIF projects to the HEC, and monitor and report the progress of approved projects quarterly



Health Professions Education WG



(formerly Graduate Medical Education)

Work Group Goals

- Actively engage in collaborative graduate medical education and other accredited training programs
- Act on the “Creating Opportunities for Exchange of Healthcare Professionals to Promote Cross Cultural Awareness” Memorandum of Agreement signed on October 8, 2008 that seeks to enhance existing and develop new health professional trainee exchange opportunities at the local level.



Health Professions Education WG



(formerly Graduate Medical Education)

Work Group Achievements

- Placement of DoD residents into VA-associated residency programs
- “Seamless transition for trainees” pilot in San Diego



Information Management/ Information Technology



WG

Work Group Goals

- Oversees the development and implementation of VA/DoD health IM/IT initiatives
- Ensures that commonly accepted government IT program management practices are utilized
- Ensures the effectiveness and efficiency of VA access to the electronic health data on separating and separated military members, and VA and DoD access to electronic health information on shared patients, and supporting the health IT initiatives



Information/ Management/ Information Technology



WG

Work Group Achievements

- Met goal to share essential health information by October 2008 and are on track to meet requirement for fully interoperable Electronic Health Records for the provision of clinical care by September 2009
- In addition to increasing the types of outpatient data available, expanded the sharing of inpatient discharge summaries.



Information/ Management/ Information Technology



WG

Work Group Achievements

- Over the past year, the number of patients for whom medical information was transferred to the VA increased from over 4.3 million to over 4.8 million
- Over the past year, the number of correlated patients for whom clinicians in both Departments have accessed clinical data increased from over 3.0 million to over 3.3 million, and there were over 71,000 average weekly queries in that period as well
- Expanded the Bidirectional Health Information Exchange Image Pilot to support the bidirectional exchange of digital images at key locations.



Patient Safety WG



Work Group Goals

- Oversee the design, development, and distribution of joint patient safety initiatives, consistent with legal requirements, including those on uses of quality assurance information



Patient Safety WG

Work Group Achievements

- The DoD/VA Data Use Agreement (DUA) for sharing data, information, and analysis on patient safety event categories was signed by both VA and DoD
- Sharing relevant patient safety alerts and advisories is now part of its routine operations



HEC Work Groups



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- More information about HEC Work Groups and their accomplishments can be found in the Joint Executive Council's Annual Report and Joint Strategic Plan available at www.tricare.mil/dvpco